



## COCHISE COUNTY ELECTIONS / SPECIAL DISTRICTS

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February 7, 2008

The Honorable Jan Brewer  
Secretary of State  
1700 West Washington, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Secretary Brewer:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-602, Cochise County conducted a hand count of ballots cast in the Presidential Preference Election held on February 5, 2008.

Per statute, the Cochise County Democrat and Republican Party Chairs randomly selected two voting regions and one batch of early ballots from a voting region for the hand count.

On February 6, 2008 at 1:00 pm, 9 designees from the county political parties met and conducted a hand count of the ballots cast at Voting Region #2 and #8 and for early ballots in Voting Region #15.

The hand count total for the early ballots cast in Voting Region #15 matched the machine total for all candidates, an Absolute Difference of zero, with 312 ballots (8.92% of all early ballots processed) hand counted.

The polling place ballots hand counted for Voting Region # 2 resulted with an Absolute Difference of one (1) out of the 1226 ballots hand counted. This was a result of a voter marking an oval for one candidate, then crossing through that oval and marking another oval then placing this ballot through the optical scan precinct counter instead of spoiling the ballot and voting a new ballot. The totals tape from the machine count reflected one (1) over vote and the hand count board unanimously agreed on the voter's intent. All other totals matched the hand count total and the machine count total.

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The exact situation as above occurred in Voting Region #8 (792 ballots hand counted) were a voter started to mark the oval above the candidate of their choice, lined through the first mark and then mark the oval they intended to mark. The totals tape again showed one (1) over vote and the candidate of choice received one less vote than the hand count total. The hand count board was unanimous in agreement that the intent of the voter was for this candidate receiving one more vote in the hand count than the machine count.

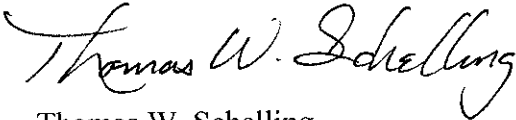
In both voting regions, the audit tape shows that an over vote was recorded and that the voter did have the option of correcting their ballot, but chose to not do so.

In Voting Region #8 the hand count board had an Absolute Difference in the total for another candidate resulting from the hand count board not correctly manually counting the total number of ballots for the voting region. Once they recounted the total number of ballots for this voting region to match the total of ballots cast at the polling place, they agreed the additional ballot and vote was in the ballots for this candidate but chose not to recount the ballots for this candidate.

The differences between the hand count and the machine count were well within the designated margins established by the Vote County Verification Committee. In Voting Region #2 there was an Absolute Difference Margin of 0.08, in Voting Region #8 an Absolute Difference Margin of 0.25 and in Voting Region # 15 an Absolute Difference Margin of 0.00.

Please contact this office if there are any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. Schelling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas W. Schelling  
Elections Officer

Cc: Anne Carl, Deputy County Attorney